



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate General for Research and Innovation

Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized enterprises (EASME)

PROTECTION OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA

This Data protection notice provides information about the processing and the protection of your personal data.

Processing operation: The COVID challenge website

Joint Data Controllers: Director of the "European Innovation Council" Task Force of the European Commission Directorate General for Research and Innovation (DG Research and Innovation) and the Head of Unit A.2 of the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME).

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1. Introduction

The European Commission (hereafter 'the Commission') and the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises ('the Agency') are committed to protecting your personal data and to respecting your privacy. The Commission and the Agency collect and further process personal data pursuant to [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data (repealing

Regulation (EC) No 45/2001).

This data protection notice explains the reason for the processing of your personal data, the way we collect, handle and ensure protection of all personal data provided, how that information is used and what rights you have in relation to your personal data. It also specifies the contact details of the responsible Joint Data Controllers with whom you may exercise your rights, their Data Protection Officers and the European Data Protection Supervisor.

The COVID challenge website is a collaborative platform created by the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises of the European Commission and funded by the European Union via the European Innovation Council (EIC) Programme¹.

The COVID challenge website helps to mobilise innovative companies including EIC beneficiaries, Seals of Excellence, researchers, large corporates and Innovators in tackling the COVID19 crisis and the post COVID aftermath, through innovative solutions.

We follow a challenge based innovation approach, addressing key needs through Challenges posted, concrete responses to these through Solutions posted and allowing stakeholders to back solutions or challenges in different ways.

We have three main parties involved:

1. Demand side:

Key stakeholders in charge of handling the COVID and post COVID crisis such as public and private procurers, local/ regional/ national organisations and agencies etc., can identify and present (with our help) the key challenges they face that need immediate attention and concrete and innovative solutions.

2. Offer Side

The EIC beneficiaries, innovative companies, companies awarded the Seal of Excellence label, Researchers, Corporates, Innovators etc. will be called in to respond to these specific challenges in concrete terms. We will filter offers for quality and only valuable input will be published and shared with Challenge owners as high potential solutions.

3. The sponsors:

Large corporates, funds, public and private procurers, local/ regional/ national organisations and agencies etc. can sponsor challenges and solutions proposed in concrete terms either with budget, partnerships, in-kind offers etc.

The COVID challenge website revolves around the concept of Challenges and Solutions, which provide a distinct, easy way to group and access content related to these.

2. Why and how do we process your personal data?

The provision of personal data is not mandatory: you can decide to browse the COVID challenge website anonymously. In this case, no registration and no login are needed and no personal information is collected nor processed.

Registration and login are needed to provide you with voluntary membership to the COVID challenge website, enabling you to contribute to it and to:

- Create a Challenge;
- Create Solutions within a Challenge;
- Post news items within a Challenge;

¹ See H2020 work programme 2018-2020 for the [Enhanced European Innovation Council](#) (EIC) pilot.

- Post discussion items within a Challenge;
- Upload documents to a Challenge or Solution;
- Create events in a Challenge;
- Pledge support to a Challenge or a Solution;
- Post comments.

We collect your personal data to document your contributions, which cannot be anonymous: your first name and family name are made public with your contributions. Your email address is not made public and will only be used to communicate with you.

We collect your personal data listed in section 4.1 below through the creation of a new account on the COVID challenge website. Alternatively, these data may also be reused from your EU Login. Additional data listed in section 4.2 may be collected voluntarily and result from your activities as contributing member of COVID challenge website.

Your personal data will not be used for an automated decision-making including profiling.

3. On what legal ground(s) do we process your personal data

We process your personal data, because You (as the data subject) have given consent to the processing of your personal data for one or more specific purposes.

4. Which personal data do we collect and further process?

4.1 The following personal information is required:

- A valid email address, that will not be made public and will be used by the system to communicate with you;
- Username;
- First name;
- Family name;
- A password to protect your account.

4.2 The following personal information is optional and you may add it to your profile on a voluntary basis:

- Country of origin;
- Professional domain;
- Business title;
- Organisation;
- Social media accounts;
- Picture.

Your first name, last name and the above additional information will be accessible by other users of the COVID challenge website, together with your contributions (i.e. news, articles and comments) and the list of Challenges or Solutions where you are involved.

5. How long do we keep your personal data?

The joint Data Controllers keep your personal data as long as you remain an active member of the

COVID challenge platform.

You have the possibility at any moment to modify your additional COVID challenge profile data.

You have the possibility at any moment to cancel your account. In this case, all additional COVID challenge personal data will be deleted permanently.

For technical support purposes, the COVID challenge website logs users' activity including users' IP address. This log is kept for the time necessary to fulfil the purpose of Challenge or further processing.

6. How do we protect and safeguard your personal data?

All personal data in electronic format (emails, documents, databases, uploaded batches of data, etc.) are stored either on the servers of the Agency and the European Commission or of its contractors. All processing operations are carried out pursuant to the [Commission Decision \(EU, Euratom\) 2017/46](#) of 10 January 2017 on the security of communication and information systems in the European Commission.

The Agency's and Commission's contractors are bound by a specific contractual clause for any processing operations of your data on behalf of the Agency or the Commission, and by the confidentiality obligations deriving from the transposition of the General Data Protection Regulation in the EU Member States ('GDPR' [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679](#)).

In order to protect your personal data, the Agency and the Commission have put in place a number of technical and organisational measures. Technical measures include appropriate actions to address online security, risk of data loss, alteration of data or unauthorised access, taking into consideration the risk presented by the processing and the nature of the personal data being processed. Organisational measures include restricting access to the personal data solely to authorised persons with a legitimate need to know for the purposes of this processing operation.

7. Who has access to your personal data and to whom is it disclosed?

Access to your personal data is provided to authorised Commission/Agency staff responsible for carrying out this processing operation and according to the "need to know" principle. Such staff abide by statutory, and when required, additional confidentiality agreements.

Your first name, family name and the optional information provided voluntarily under section 4.2 will be accessible on the COVID challenge website by registered or anonymous users, together with your contributions and memberships. Your email address is not made public. This information will remain as long as the COVID challenge website will be operational or until you cancel your account.

The information we collect will not be given to any third party, except to the extent and for the purpose we may be required to do so by law.

8. What are your rights and how can you exercise them?

You have specific rights as a 'data subject' under Chapter III (Articles 14-25) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, in particular the right to access, rectify or erase your personal data and the right to restrict the processing of your personal data. Where applicable, you also have the right to object to the processing or the right to data portability.

You have consented to provide your personal data to the joint Data Controllers for the present processing operation. You can withdraw your consent at any time by notifying the joint Data Controllers. The withdrawal will not affect the lawfulness of the processing carried out before you have withdrawn the consent.

You can exercise your rights by contacting the joint Data Controllers, or in case of conflict their Data Protection Officers. If necessary, you can also address the European Data Protection Supervisor. Their contact information is given under Heading 9 below.

Where you wish to exercise your rights in the context of one or several specific processing operations, please provide their description (i.e. their Record reference(s) as specified under Heading 10 below) in your request.

9. Contact information

- The joint Data Controllers

If you would like to exercise your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, or if you have comments, questions or concerns, or if you would like to submit a complaint regarding the collection and use of your personal data, please feel free to address them to the Director of the "European Innovation Council" Task Force or the Head of Unit A.2 of the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises via EASME-SME-HELPDESK@ec.europa.eu.

- The Data Protection Officers (DPO) of EASME and the Commission

You may contact the DPO of EASME (EASME-DPO@ec.europa.eu) or the DPO of the Commission (DATA-PROTECTION-OFFICER@ec.europa.eu) with regard to issues related to the processing of your personal data under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

- The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)

You have the right to have recourse (i.e. you can lodge a complaint) to the European Data Protection Supervisor (edps@edps.europa.eu) if you consider that your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 have been infringed as a result of the processing of your personal data by the Data Controller.

10. Where to find more detailed information?

The Commission Data Protection Officer (DPO) publishes the register of all processing operations on personal data by the Commission, which have been documented and notified to him. You may access the Commission register via the following link: <http://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register> and the one for EASME [here](#).

This specific processing operation has been included in the Commission DPO's public register with the following Record reference: *DPR-EC-01844*.
